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General

1. Shakhty N 57-46, E 40-127, Rostov Oblast, had a population of about 150,000 according to the results of the last census taken in 1948 or 1949. There was a census in 1950, but I never saw the published results. Shakhty was a large coal mining center of the Donets Coal Basin (Donbas). Practically everybody in Shakhty was directly or indirectly associated with the coal mines located in the area; no other large, industrial enterprises were located in or around the town.
2. Shakhty was connected by a double RR track with Moscow and Rostov na Donu. This was the main RR line connecting the central part of the USSR and Moscow with the Caucasus.

Health Statistics

3. I have no information on the annual birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate, or leading causes of death in Shakhty. Epidemic diseases in Shakhty were dysentery (a very severe epidemic occurred in 1950, when a large percentage of the population was affected, none fatally, by this disease), tuberculosis, and malaria.

Water

4. Shakhty had a public water system, deriving water from the Donets River. Water was pumped from the river, filtered (I do not know where it was chlorinated), and re-pumped to a water tower located in the central part of Shakhty on the intersection of Prospekt Pushkina and Sovetskaya Ulitsa, close to the administration building of the Shakhty Anthracite Trust; water flowed through city pipe lines by the force of gravity.

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5. As far as I heard, only a few recently built apartment houses in the central part of Shakhty had water brought into the house. All other houses in the center and especially the peripheral parts of town had water taps in the courtyards or on the streets, one tap serving several and sometimes even a whole block of houses. Coal mines in Shakhty and vicinity did not have their own water supply but were serviced by the city water supply system.
6. I have no information on the daily water consumption in Shakhty. There was some sanitary section belonging to the city administration where the water was tested; I do not know, however, the name or location of this agency. Shakhty city water was very hard; I never saw any case of goiter in Shakhty which makes me believe that the water contained sufficient iodine. There was no necessity to boil the Shakhty water before drinking it. Everybody drank water from the tap without any ill effects.
7. Bottled mineral water (Arzrum, Narzan, Yessentuki, Borzhom) from the northern Caucasus could be obtained in any kiosk in town. Carbonated water, all kinds of lemonade, orangeade, cherry, raspberry and similar sweetened carbonated drinks were sold in the same kiosks in the summertime. The mineral waters were drunk for dietary reasons and not to avoid drinking water from the town water system.
8. I have never seen any wells even on the farthest outskirts of Shakhty, and the public water system supplied water even there. I heard that the underground water in the Shakhty region was not potable, and this was probably the reason that there were no wells in and around the town.

Food

9. The Shakhty Health Department (city agency of GosZdravOtdel) exercised strict control over the quality of food supplied to the population. This was done through the sanitary control section of the GosZdravOtdel, which had a veterinarian on duty with the Shakhty slaughterhouse. There was also a sanitary control point at the town's market place where meat brought by kolkhozniki was examined and certificates of its fitness for human consumption issued in the form of tickets to vendors. Dairy products brought to the market place were examined, their fat content tested, and certificates issued at the same control point. Fish was also examined. Militia organs exercised control over the market places, checking certificates of the sanitary control section and impounding food products sold without certificates. Unless the sanitary control section's certificates were displayed on the stand, the people of Shakhty would not buy any food products from the vendor.
10. There were quite a number of public eating places in Shakhty called "stolovaya" where food, beer, wine, and vodka could be obtained. There were also a few restaurants where regular meals and all kinds of beverages could be ordered, but the prices in restaurants were considerably higher than in the stolovaya. In addition to these two types of public eating places there were many snack bars (zakusochneya) where cold cuts and various drinks could be obtained. Snack bars were frequented mainly by drunkards and shady characters, and quite often by young workers. Hard working people did not visit snack bars but preferred to patronize the stolovaya.
11. To give an idea what food was available in Shakhty and what the average worker's diet was, I will recount what I usually ate while working for the Rostov Housing Project [ ] and Yuzhnaya Coal Mine [ ].  
a. Breakfast: soup or borsch or tea, and black bread.

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- b. Lunch: cold frankfurters or a piece of sausage; rolls without butter; and some similar cold food taken from home or bought in a store close to the working place. When I was not working during the lunch hour, I had my lunch at home; prepared by my mother, it usually consisted of vegetable stew or borsch without meat, and some gruel with butter. I had meat with my meals only on great holidays.
- c. Dinner: home-fried potatoes, gruel, or macaroni; sometimes warmed-up stew or borsch left over from lunch.

Although three members of my family (father, brother, and myself) out of four, worked and received pretty good wages according to Soviet standards, we could not afford to have any better food than I have described.

- 12. There were quite a number of people in Shakhty who could not afford even such meager food as my family had. These were either war invalids, aged people who could not support themselves, or children. They begged for a few kopeyek, normally in the market place or at streetcar stops. I never heard of any organization in Shakhty which took care of people who were unable to support themselves.

#### Disposal System

- 13. There was a sewage disposal system in Shakhty, but only for the center of town. Other parts of town had primitive outdoor toilets. I do not know where the waste disposal system led, but I believe it was directed into the Donets River without any prior treatment of waste. Outdoor toilets were emptied by a city disposal crew which had several horse-drawn vehicles with large wooden barrels. I do not know where they took the waste.
- 14. There was a regular garbage collection in Shakhty in the central part of town. In other parts of town garbage was usually taken to some place several yards away from the house and dumped; it would collect there for several months before the town's garbage disposal crew came for it. Dead animals were often left in town in ditches for weeks before being removed.

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